

Appl. No. 10/057,652
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 33-35 are newly added. These are within the elected invention and consideration thereof along with the elected invention is respectfully requested. To avoid payment of additional filing fees, and to reduce issues, Group III, claims 23-26, drawn to processes of using, have been deleted. An additional filing fee is not required for the three new claims.

The claims are rejected as obvious Sekiguchi (USP 6,485,812) or as obvious over Sunderrajan et al (USP 6,635,319 or USP 6,347,866). The Examiner considers that the assertions made by applicant in the prior responses essentially are not sufficiently supported so as to change the Examiner's earlier position that the claims are obvious over the cited art. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of the present invention as compared with the cited art. Reconsideration of the earlier arguments in view of the following further explanation is respectfully requested.

The present invention as claimed in claim 1 is an inkjet recording medium comprising a substrate and a plurality of ink

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absorption layers. The upper layer, as claimed, contains inorganic pigment, a binder and thermoplastic particles which do not operate as a binder. That is, the thermoplastic particles are not a double inclusion of the binder element in claim 1 but rather are a separate element. Because of this difference (and in support thereof) the expression used to describe the thermoplastic elements in the claim is "particles." In contrast, the references relied on for the rejection disclose inorganic particles, a binder and latex as a binder. That is, the references do not include an element analogous to or functioning the same as the present invention thermoplastic particles. On the other hand, the references disclose inorganic particles, a binder and latex as a binder. That is, the references do not disclose material analogous to or functioning as the present invention thermoplastic particles.

The relation between the invention and the references is as follows:

Present Invention	inorganic pigment	binder		thermoplastic particles
The references	inorganic particles	binder	latex as a binder	(nothing)

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To illustrate the differences between the present invention and the references, the following figures were provided by applicant.

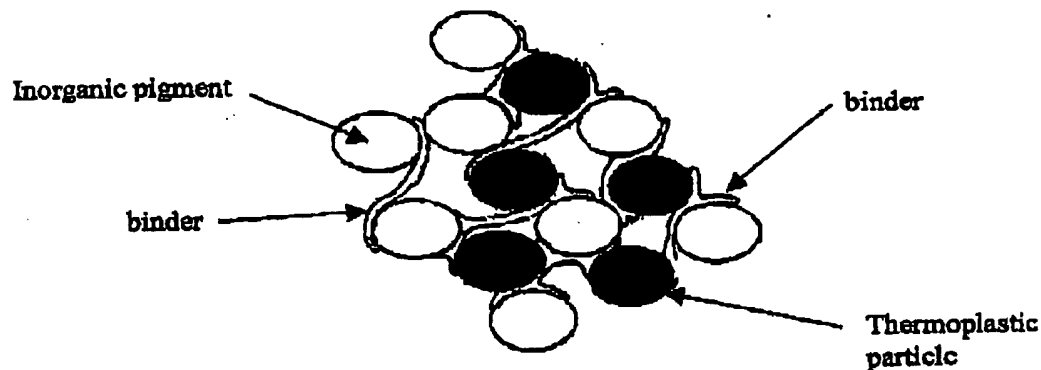


Fig. 1 (Our Invention)

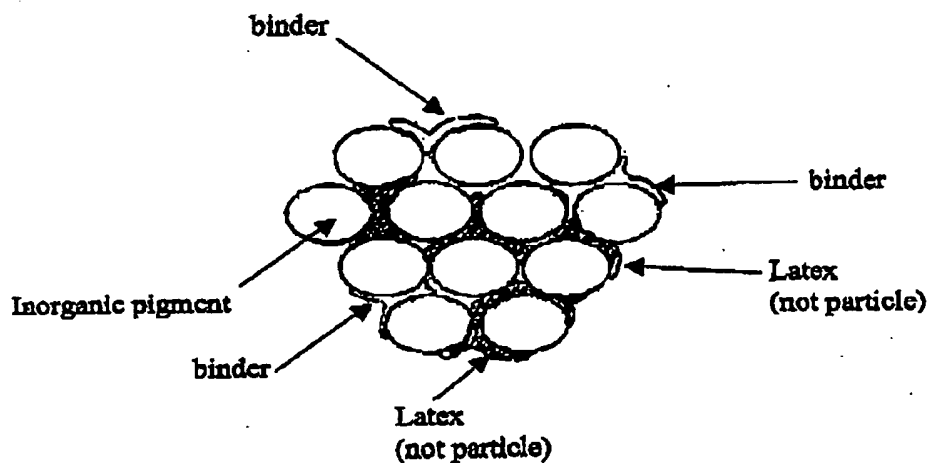


Fig. 2 (References)

Fig. 1 shows the present invention medium. Fig. 2 is a conceptual drawing showing a medium of the references. As can be

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seen from a comparison of Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, there is a big difference between the thermoplastic particle in Fig. 1 and the latex in Fig. 2. The references disclose that the latex is used as a binder. According to this disclosure, the latex must be the shape shown in Fig. 2. On the other hand, the thermoplastic particle in Fig. 1 does not function as a binder because it is a particle.

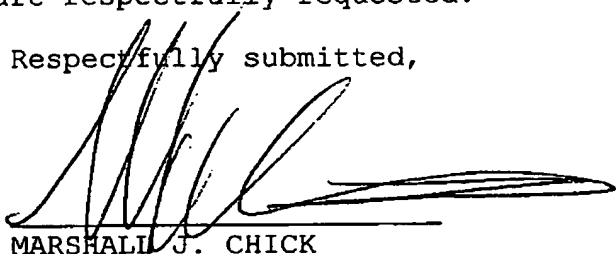
Although the references have no drawing analogous to Fig. 2, it is submitted that Fig. 2 is a correct representation of the disclosure that the described support having the ink-receiving layer coated is thereafter subjected to a calender process in col. 17 (of Sekiguchi). Sunderrajan also disclosed a calender process in col. 4.

Further, claims 7, 14 and 17 have a limitation of a weight ratio of thermoplastic particles/inorganic pigment. Such limitation is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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